enrolment plan and slack available with the distributor. Following preferential/ priority criteria are currently being followed for release of connections at present.

1. Hilly areas
2. Taj Trapezium
3. Tatkal Scheme
4. Customers registered prior to 1.1. 1991
5. M.P. Priority connections
6. Distributors operating below the viability level.
7. Release 1000 connections to newly commissioned distributorships in two instalments.
8. Balance LPG connections are released through distributors operating above viability limit, in accordance with norms developed by each oil company.

(b) to (e) Requests are received from time to time from LPG distributors for release of additional LPG connections, which are forwarded to oil companies for release of connections in accordance with the policy of the company in view of total enrolment available to the company and after following above-priorities.

Leasing of Oil Fields to Private Parties

1189. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are strong protests on the leasing of several oil fields to private parties;

(b) if so, whether CAG in its report have also criticised Government to lease out the oil fields to private parties;

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(d) the immediate steps Government propose to take to cancel leasing of oil fields in favour of private parties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Government of India is aware of protests from certain quarters on the award of discovered oil fields to private parties.

(b) and (c) The report No. 5 (Commercial) of 1996 on "Participation of private parties with ONGC in production of crude oil and natural gas" of CAG has already been laid on the table of the House on 27th February, 1997.

(d) The contracts for development of discovered fields have been signed in pursuance of a considered policy decision of the Government and there is no proposal to cancel these contracts.

Petrol consumption in Gujarat

1190. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the annual per-capita petrol and natural gas consumption in Gujarat and other States and the country as a whole as on the 30th June, 1997;

(b) the reasons for less supply of natural LPG to Gujarat in comparison to its requirement;

(c) the annual demand of natural gas and petrol in each district, district-wise in the State during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) the measures taken or to be taken by the Central Government to bring the demand at per with national level; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) Petrol is not an allocated product and it is being supplied to the retail outlets to meet the full market demand including in the State of Gujarat. The quantity of petrol supplied to the State of Gujarat and other States and the country as a whole during April-June, 1997 is given in Statement-I (*See* below).

Details regarding sale of petrol in the State district-wise during the last three years is given in Statement-II (*See* below).